



News from Congressman **Tom Lantos**

12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco

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LANTOS SEEKS TO FILL "PAY GAP" FOR ACTIVATED RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD

Introduces Bill to Reduce Discrepancy Between Military Pay and Civilian Salaries

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to substantially reduce the discrepancy in pay between civilian and military salaries for Reservists and National Guard when they are involuntarily activated for more than thirty days. "The Equity for Reservists Pay Act," H.R. 1345, introduced by Congressman Lantos and co-sponsored by Members of Congress Robert Wexler (D-FL), Sam Graves (R-MO), Diane Watson (D-CA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), would require the Federal Government to pay its civilian employees serving in the Reserves at their civilian government salary rate during their deployment. The bill also provides strong incentives for state and local governments to do the same, and creates a tax credit for to encourage private firms to continue paying their Reservist employees. The National Guard Association and the Reserve Officers Association have endorsed the bill.

"The brave men and women serving in America's Reserves and National Guard make tremendous sacrifices for their country. Some are called to make the ultimate sacrifice. One sacrifice they and their families should not have to make is a cut in pay when they are activated. Many serving in the Reserves and National Guard, however, are the victims of a 'pay gap' between their military pay and civilian salaries. This is unfair and unacceptable. The government has a duty to the men and women wearing the uniform of the Reserves and National Guard to ensure they and their families are not financial burdened when they answer their call to duty," Congressman Lantos said.

Congressman Lantos first learned of this pay inequity when a firefighter and Reservist from South San Francisco, Gary Kibbee, shared his personal story of the hardships his family had to undergo last year. In the 12th Congressional District, 1289 Reservists and 469 National Guard could potentially benefit from this bill. Currently, over 168,000 Reserves and National Guard are activated nationwide.

Specifically, the bill requires Federal Government to pay their civilian employees the difference between their military pay and civilian salary when they are activated in the Reserves or National Guard. It also encourages state and local governments to continue or initiate paying their Reservist employees through a reimbursement formula, and it creates a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount of compensation private employers pay their Reservist employees.

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